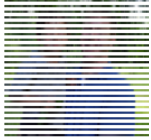


Supporting the Social Emotional Needs of Young Children in Maine

April 30, 2016



Senator Cathy Breen

Rita Furlow, Maine Children's Alliance

Peter Lindsay, United Way of Mid Coast Maine
and Maine Children's Growth Council

Reasons for the Social Emotional Project

- Anecdotal evidence that child care providers are seeing an increase in behavior challenges that are beyond their capacity to address
- Need for comprehensive data collection and research on underlying causes. How big is this problem? Why is this happening? Report back to legislature.
- Develop and implement strategies to provide evidence-based interventions and reduce expulsions. Improve outcomes, reduce future costs.

"It is important that Maine take a closer look at the causes and possible remedies to this problem."

- Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs



National Center for Children in Poverty
putting research to work for children & families

the **Ounce**



Four Major Steps in the Study

- **Survey** of child care providers/teachers – in centers and family child care settings, Head Starts, and public pre-K.
- **A state policy landscape** – what is happening and working well in other states.
- **Maine policy landscape** – what is happening and working well in Maine.
- **Development of recommendations for Maine.**

State Policy Issues

- **Professional Development** Focused on Social Emotional Learning and Development
- **Early Childhood Consultation** (including Mental Health)
- **Involuntary and Voluntary Dismissal**
- **Child Screening/Assessment** for Social Emotional Problems and Strengths
- **Parent Education, Engagement, and Support**
- **Early Childhood Special Education** (Early Intervention/Part C & Preschool Special Education/Part B)

Examples in Maine

- **Professional Development**
- **Early Childhood/Mental Health Consultations**
- **Child Screening/Assessment**
- **Parent Education, Engagement, and Support**
- **Early Childhood Special Education**



Examples from Other States



Questions?



Discussion

- What is your experience with social-emotional issues with young children and families?
- What is the role of pediatricians and family medicine in addressing these issues, and ways to integrate your work with community-based programs?
- What services or ideas do you think would be important for the study to consider as part of recommendations?